

WEST ILSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
West Ilsley Parish Council (“WIPC”)
held virtually
on Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.30pm (the “Meeting”)**

Present: Rollo Duckworth (Chair)
Justin Gilbert
Graham Woods
Alan Beaumont
Alan Bloor

In attendance: Ward Councillor Carlyne Culver, and several members of the public.

1. Chair and Apologies

Rollo Duckworth (RD) chaired the meeting, via Zoom hosted by Graham Woods (GW). There was no clerk present as the post is vacant. West Berkshire Council, Democratic Services are content for the meeting to be held without a clerk.

2. Changes to Declarations of Interest and Councillors

No changes to declarations of interest were received but since the last meeting Anna Sugden had stepped down. RD recorded Anna Sugden’s valued contribution as a parish councillor over the last ten years but noted that a Zoom call was a poor place for thanks, especially as Anna was not attending. Thanks would be given properly at a later date. There were two candidates for her vacancy, and so the co-option procedure would commence, as authorised by West Berks Council.

2.3 Both Neil Fowler and Alan Muir received nominations. Justin Gilbert (JG) and RD proposed and seconded Neil Fowler, and Alan Bloor (ABI) and Alan Beaumont (Abe) proposed and seconded Alan Muir. On voting, Alan Muir also received the vote of Graham Woods (GW) and therefore was co-opted by 3 votes to 2. Alan Muir (AM) then joined the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the West Ilsley Parish Council held on Monday 14 September 2020.

3.3 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 September had been circulated prior to the meeting. The draft minutes were approved, and then signed by RD as a true record.

RD to publish.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

4.1 RD confirmed all matters arising will be covered in the rolling agenda.

5. Correspondence.

5.1 Correspondence has been received from the office of the MP for Newbury asking for possible attendance at a meeting and if it would be possible to write something for the WIN. The WIN editors can decide. Information correspondence, primarily from West Berks Council, has been published in the WIN where appropriate.

WIN editors

6. Community Matters.

6.1 Finance. The second Precept payment of 2020/21 has been received, and routine expenses for the Zoom licence and the web hosting and the playground safety inspection have been paid. A second duplicate VAT reclaim, paid to us twice in error, has been repaid to HMRC, and the costs for our uncontested election in May have been paid to West Berks. £1,122.89 remains in the CIL pot. Including the CIL money, there is £48,824.16 in the bank.

6.2 WIN, Website, and communications. RD commended the editors of the WIN for their continual good work in holding the village together. He noted a resumption of issues for btinternet.com users in receiving messages from the WIN, after misplaced optimism that a BTupgrade over the summer had resolved matters.

6.3 Village Trusts. RD told the meeting that Will Thomas-Ferrand and he had been working with Neil Fowler on his village documentation project. They hoped that they had reached a stage where they could publish the results. It was evident that the wider role of the West Ilsley Recreation and Social Association (WIRSA) had some lapsed, as evidenced by parish records over many years; the committee's work had tended to focus on merely village hall matters, while in fact WIRSA had a more central role involved with everything on the recreation ground as well as the village hall. RD viewed WIRSA's involvement as crucial to the community cricket nets project as well.

RD and others

6.4 The church held a limited service outdoors on Remembrance Sunday, as permitted specifically during lockdown 2 arrangements.

6.5 The cricket club and the tennis club are closed, but the playground is still allowed to be open.

6.6 There were no fireworks or bonfire night last week. All other activities were suspended.

7. Environment and upkeep.

7.1 Planning applications. The only outstanding undecided application was a retrospective one for a five-bar gate at 5 West Ilsley House.

7.2 Footpaths. Clive Hooker raised a point about the state of the farm track going towards the summer gallops. It is also a footpath and he felt that a combination of shoot traffic, farm vehicles and racing usage has made it impassable as a footpath, and he suggested remedial action by the vehicle users before West Berks Council got involved.

7.3 Playground. It was thought that the tree by the playground should be trimmed so that it could be easier to keep the ground tidy around it, and perhaps even sit beneath it.

7.4 Village Hall. The roof needed checking for loose tiles.

8. Safety and Services.

8.1 Roads. It was noted that SID equipment loans were suspended during lock down. JG, supported by Simon Tarrant, updated the meeting on the Old Chapel traffic calming measures and the legal resolution sought to the use and ownership of the pavement outside the building. West Berks no longer wish to install a VAS there, and any further ideas they might have will come out at a meeting scheduled for 9 December.

9. Working Village.

9.1 Pub. The registration of an Asset of Community Value exercise continues, undertaken by Neil Fowler, led by ABI. RD thanked them both for their help.

ABI

9. AOB.

9.1 AM enquired about the position of clerk, which has been advertised. There have been no replies. AM told the meeting how important he felt about the need for a professional clerk. RD reiterated how the search may be difficult as national salary scales suggest a range of £10-12 per hour for our clerk and as East Ilsley's own clerk confirmed, the few hours of work required in West Ilsley do not make it a very attractive employment proposition in its own right. AM volunteered to find out what other villages are doing.

AM

9.2 AM asked what had been done about those btinternet.com users who could not be reached. Andrea Cook explained that she and Martin BW had investigated this together. At present it appears to be a strategic matter with BT, and not a parish related matter.

9.3 Abe told the meeting that he would sort out the new battery and pads that are required to service the defibrillator.

10. Open forum.

10.1 Ward Councillor Carolyne Culver asked to give a report. She also requested that she may be allowed to speak earlier in the meeting in future.

She told the meeting about:

- Ridgeway Volunteers, and exchange of ideas and information which has proved helpful in other villages in her ward. West Ilsley is not presented at present.
- Dog fouling. She offered stickers to publicise the problem which occupies much of her inbox.
- The Planning White Paper which we should all consider.
- The Sunrise planning in East Ilsley. There is no movement there at present.
- The Warmer Streets initiative which could benefit villagers or maybe the village hall itself.
- The Crown and Horns shop-in-the-pub in East Ilsley. Andrea Cook has already publicised it.
- Her commitment to seeing more social housing, sustainable housing, and smaller housing to see local people living in their local areas.

RD thanked her for the report.

There being no further business RD closed the meeting at 9.18 pm. Date of next meeting Monday 11 January 2021 at 7:30pm.

Chair

Date